

Message Text

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17

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-11 OMB-01 /075 W
----- 082272

R 290845Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4122
INFO AMEMBASY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMEMBASSY LIMA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE COLOMBO 325

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINR

SUBJ: NEW INDIAN AMBASSADORS TO CHILE AND PERU

1. ACCORDING TO PRESS, H.D. BAHALA, DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA IN SRI LANKA SINCE MARCH 1974, HAS BEEN APPOINTED AS INDIAN AMBASSADOR TO CHILE. WE UNDERSTAND HIS WIFE, MONA BAHALA, WILL BE APPOINTED INDIAN AMB TO PERU.

2. WIFE HIS TITLE OF MINISTER AND IS THIRD RANKING OFFICER OF HIGH COMMISSION HERE. TECHNICALLY, HOWEVER, SHE OUTRANKS HIM WITHIN INDIAN FOREIGN SERVICE BY VIRTUE OF HER HIGHER EXAMINATION SCORE AT TIME OF THEIR SIMULTANEOUS ENTRY. HER APPOINTMENT HAS NOT YET BEEN ANNOUNCED BUT SHE HAS TOLD FRIENDS OF IT.

3. BAHALA APPEARS TO HAVE ANTI-AMERICAN STREAK IN HIM. EMBASSY POLITICAL OFFICER RELATED EMBARRASSING SCENE AT HIGH-LEVEL SOCIAL FUNCTION AUGUST 1975 WHEN BAHALA LAUNCHED INTO LOUD ANTI-US TIRADE IN RESPONSE TO LOW-KEY QUESTION FROM EMBOFF. ON THIS OCCASION,
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OUTBURST WAS AGGRAVATED BY TOO MUCH LIQUOR. WE HAVE

HEARD OTHER STORIES OF HIS CRITICISM OF US BUT
NOT ALL HIS CONTACTS WITH AMERICANS ARE MARKED BY SUCH
DIATRIBES. HE CAN BE PLEASANT AND CORDIAL IF NOT
FEELING PUGNACIOUS. WIFE DOES NOT
APPEAR TO SHARE HIS ANTI-US ATTITUDES OR AT LEAST
HIS NEED TO EXPRESS THEM PUBLICLY. SHE IS GREGARIOUS AND COMPETENT.

4. BAHALA WAS BORN IN 1936 AND JOINED THE INDIAN
FOREIGN SERVICE IN 1958. HE HAS SERVED IN LAOS, INDONESIA,
JAPAN, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, AND FRG.
VAN HOLLEN

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